

3 June

Wanted arduous alignment.
String-up as a quadrant,
internally. But what about
the "walls", what about
the outside. To focus on the
"inside" as opposed to the
"outside" is an interpretation,
N at least a biased
sample. This is analogous to
digging the "house" in
a Roman villa context, or
a burial mound in an
ancient cemetery in a ritual
context. Naughty! But
there's a chance we might
get more swag this way.
Chris says Mike is being
optimistic when he says
it can be down (planned)
in 2 days - on past
performance! (Chris is
"Boj" having with a piece).

Basic grid (10 x 13m) Set
up over excavation &
recording site.

Chris and Mike. See

June 4

Nothing happened archaeologically -

5 June 96

Mike started getting organised for the surface plan drawing, after finishing the drawing at the other house. Ash eventually managed to join him (after fence post delays etc etc)

We're going to try half the grid each - Mike not really! the Western half, Ash the Eastern. It's a (phenomenally!) large area: 130 m²! we estimate 8 person-days to completion. And neither of us really see any point in recording the surface plan at this stage i.e. with no ^{meaningful} excavation being likely to occur. By end of day

well done $\approx 26 m^2$.

6 June 96

Ash continued planning E half
(Mike off site today)

In morning Chris Titley + AN other came
with door frame to record inter visibility. They
had a brief discussion about whether the
door frame should be aligned with inner or
outer walls, recorded their results & left.

Peter Herring of Cornwall A.V.
walked past ^(with colleague & dog) & identified the 19th
straddle stone in NE quadrant (outside
house).

Ash sat on the large flat stone in inner well
NW quadrant for a while & admired the
situation / scenery / rocks / horres / larkies etc.
- Noticed that no cairns nor iron terminal are
visible through the putative entrance gap -
interesting.

(N.B. The "NE quadrant" goes from $208.5 \rightarrow 213$
N, hence the "SE quadrant" will be from $200 \rightarrow 208.5$
- yes, these aren't equal, but that won't matter

for the assembled info.)

NE quadrant was Sheet 2; Drawing 1 - finished
Site code ascertained to be LSS 96

Ash started SE quadrant - Sheet 3; Drawing 1
Sue & Chris G. passed through to acquire some
large nails from the LSS tool box. Otherwise
no one else has been within 100 m - very pleasant
to get on with the tasks with little disturbance.

Someone was sledgehammering grid posts at the
stone son terminal in early afternoon - the sound
took about 1 second to get here, so it must be
~ 340 metres away.

The above was written about 4.30 pm. Then
the settlement survey team drove near - lots of
chat about what we're doing, what we might find,
what they're doing etc. Net result was that by 6 pm
Sheet 3; Drawing 1 had only progressed as far as the title!
(ASH)

7th June.

Mike continued to draw WH-39. There is little point in this exercise except insofar as it may facilitate the reconstruction of the sites pre-excavation condition. Too many rocks remain buried. It may be possible to establish trends across structures (circularity, double skinned walls, possibly even a common orientation), but any deeper interpretation is at the very least going to run up against the destructive potential of the Gomer. For this reason, Mike declines to indulge in it. It is entertaining, yes, but so is Von Däniken and Alfred Watkins. He, on the other hand, sees in archaeology something more

(important) than entertainment,
the knowledge and appreciation
of things for what they are
rather than what they're
supposed to be. It is only
by doing this that we can
reconcile ourselves with
reality, it is only by doing this
we can realize ... oh fuck
this, I haven't written such
crap ~~any~~ since I was a
teenager! [This afternoon 19
hut 39 had three visitors, a
family "Do you mind
telling us what you're doing?"
the husband asked. "I'm
drawing a prehistoric hut,"
Mike answered. "These are
all structures ..." he pointed
in front and behind, the
man turning into him:
"Really?" he asked what
the guys were, how old it

was exactly, were we
 coming back. His wife, when
 Mike pointed out the
 enclosure walls, said,
 "they had them, then?" in
 surprise. Thanking him, all
 three went on to look at the
 excavation in the western
 settlement. People are just
 interested. It is not necessary
 to pull their motives apart,
 not mine, not Chris Tully's,
 not this family's. But
 for what it's worth, it's the
 latter's which seem the most
 honest.

*

Chris was right about Mike's
 optimism; even with Ash's
 help, but 39 won't be done
 till Monday

Saturday 8 June

Mike finished planning W half of grid.
Ash continued with eastern half & did 21 m². Ash has 23 m² left to do, hopes to complete tomorrow.

Mike noticed that some of the stones have been shifted recently. e.g. One in the putative entrance had luxuriant green grass under it i.e. stone must have been shifted by at least 10 cm within the past couple of weeks, probably less.

Sunday 9 June

Ash finished SE quadrant - 23 m² in 5 hrs, seems OK for speed. Accuracy OK. The 4 plans align pretty well.

The Prehistoric Society passed through, & trashed the (primary) NW grid peg - makes a change from cattle & horses. Then ^{they} sat around & ate lunch - I thought I better look professional & carry on till after they'd moved out of sight. So my lunch was at 1.30.

Some sensible questions from the Cornish Archaeological Society later. Ash got a real buzz out of saying to one of them "The 2 of us who've been drawing this house for the last 3 days know these stones better than anyone has in the last 3000 years." I wonder if it's true.

I've had 2 very pleasant days drawing this house -

back pains, trashed grid pegs, rhomboidal planning frames, collapsing planning frame supports, occasional wind gusts giving my straight lines little kinks notwithstanding. I do archaeology because I enjoy the process.

Currently we are gathering raw data; my flights of fancy about interpretations are just that - entertaining intellectual dreams/games that keep me amused while I'm (physically) busy doing something else. While any discipline needs to have its methodology constantly under review, & occasionally totally redefined, I don't see that this Project can do that (was that one of its intentions, anyway?) since it is predominantly introducing the uninitiated into techniques (that have been painstakingly established over 10 decades or so), and getting to the stage of being able to produce constructive criticism is, of course, time consuming & requires ~~not~~ not merely intellect & honesty, but also practical experience of the many techniques involved, & how they feed off each other to produce the interpretations that are the ultimate output from archaeology to society at large. (Archaeologists, of course, just do archaeology because they enjoy doing it, & it can pay the mortgage etc.)

↑ or maybe not!

Back of the sett

Having proudly finished the plan around 4 pm I spent ~20 mins tidying up. Then went to find the settlement survey team to tell them that, as predicted 1 hour earlier, I had finished, hence they could do their stuff with Hut 39 today. And then we could depart first thing tomorrow. After 20 minutes trying to find them I noticed that they were just disappearing over the horizon towards Westmoorgate i.e. they'd gone home. How on earth is the excavation going to be completed if everyone adopts this lackadaisical approach to progressing the site? They (i.e. the non-excavators) are typically arriving an hour later on site, & getting off site $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours before the excavators. This is a shameless frittering of resources (that are always scarce in archaeology) & is not treating the Project with the seriousness & professionalism that it deserves. [If the Project is worth doing, it's worth doing well, and that includes the excavation component which, since it has a definite completion (unlike the settlement survey) can not fail to suffer if the current general approach to the 3 excavations does not alter radically.

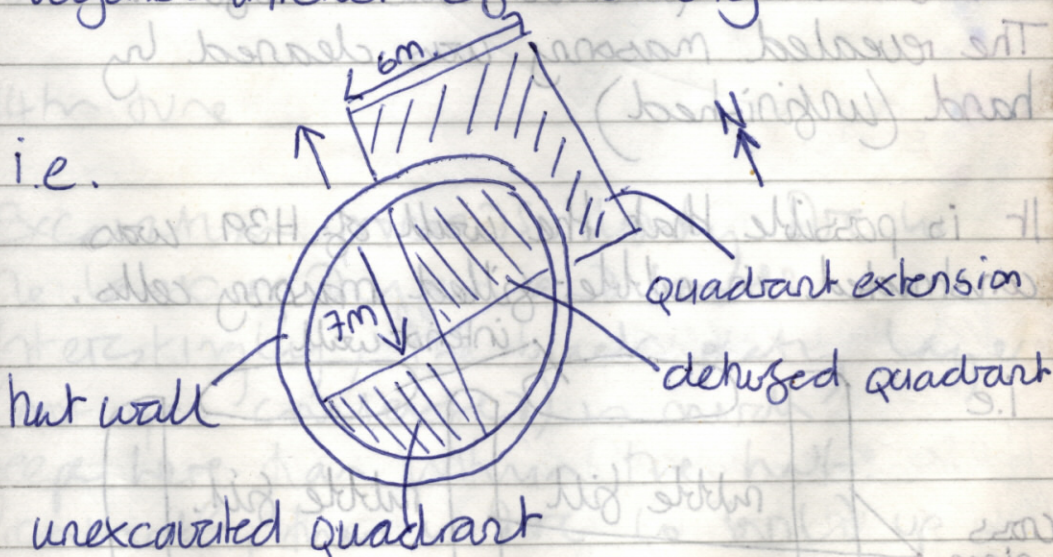
We have 10 working days left...

10th June 1996 - C.A.G. JPP1 smt HSI

The quadrant adjacent the large backshore was dehused.
Large quantities of rubble were revealed below the huf line during this process.

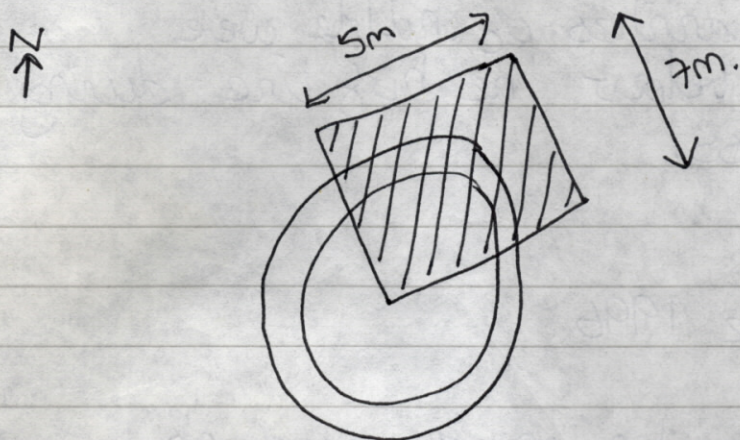
11th June 1996.

Proposed extension of quadrant beyond interior of building



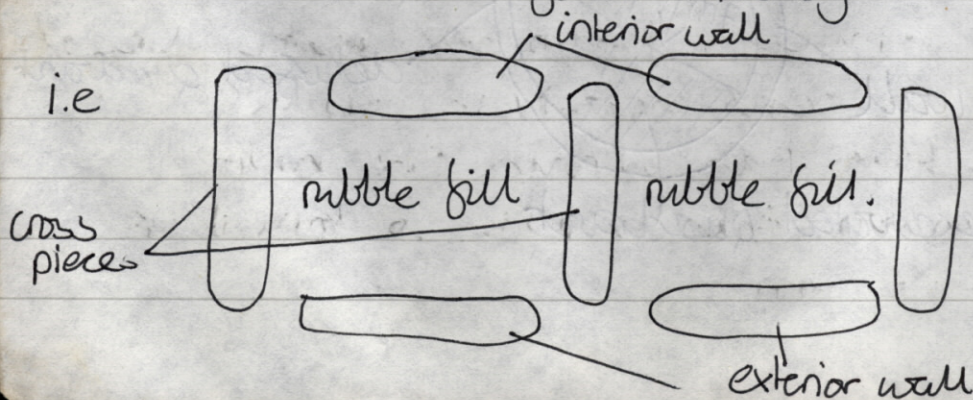
12th June 1996.

Quadrant extended over H39. (5m. x 7m.)



The extended quadrant was deholed.
The revealed masonry was cleared by hand (unfinished)

It is possible that the wall of H39 was constructed in rubble-filled masonry cells.



13th. June 1996.

Extended quadrant was cleaned-up and photographed.

A.R. kept photographic record which needs to be transferred to appropriate file.

No contexts have been assigned to H39

The newly revealed masonry must initially be planned. + levelled. Thanks
Chris.

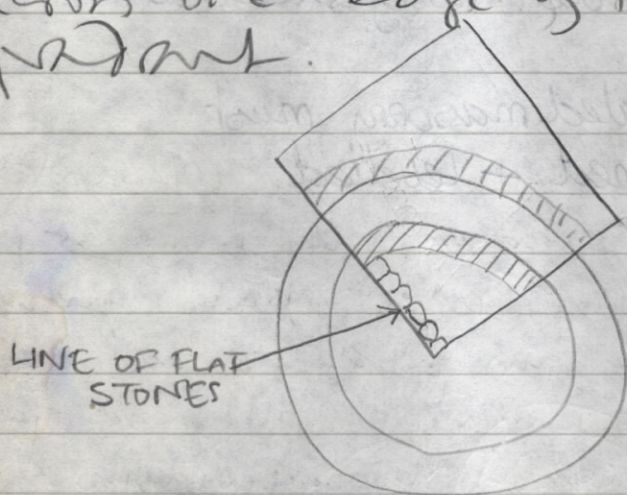
14th June

Excavation proceeds slowly due to the lack of diggers and tools.

Interestingly, the black peaty layer (not yet contexted) is much deeper here than when the hut. Presumably this is due to build up from the slope.

15th June

Ready for photography and planning prior to - the closing down of the trench? In addition to cellular structure noted on Wednesday we now have a line of flat stones running across one edge of the inner quadrant.



▨ WALL RUBBLE

These resemble drains (or "sumps", Mike is bet) found in similar but elsewhere.

Shennan visits and looks
wide eyed at everything. Mike
feels very odd describing what
appears obvious to even a
worker.

Sets of photos taken before and
after brushing. It will be
interesting to see in the results
differ.

16th June

Mike and Sue showed me what is I
was going to plan after Ash's departure.
Felt a little unconfident at first
since I haven't planned for
a year but since I started the
plan, I've been fine.

Most difficult part is setting
up the program frame. The
program is a series of objects
connected by lines. All of them
are connected to the main
frame.

at hut entrance which may have resulted from house burning down - or something like that. I won't be planning that but but it will need to be marked.

17th June.

Continued where I left off yesterday. Finished the NE quadrant and got Mike to help me set up grid for NW part. Have done a bit of it - $3.5m^2$

21st June.

H39 was given very basic context descriptions. These are not designed to be the final context sheets for the hut. Rather, they are intended to provide a framework for next years work. Apart from the hogline, none of the contexts have been excavated. It is so likely that this years

context sheets will be radically altered / FPP1
disposed of next year.

Drawing nos. not on context sheets

Context nos. not on drawings (see ①)

22nd June.

Refused.

The geology is a silty clay deposit of the base of the
silty clay deposit of the base of the
overlying layer of 'pea-grit' (7) (see
diag B.T.). A mottled iron pan deposit
was located below both (12) + (13).

A number of possible pit features
were located on the surface of (3).

These have been tagged and
sketched on a plan of H39 N.W.

1997 SEASON.

May 28th.

The south-eastern quadrant of H39 has been dehusged. The stones have been defined by gravel and brush ready for planning by Justin.

We have started to excavate to the back of the structure. The husg and underlying context (2) have been removed to reveal a pea-grit deposit. The rubble is apparently located within context (2) and the pea-grit. Hopefully, most of the rubble will be removed by the end of the day.

4th June

The excavation of deposits to the rear of H39 has been undertaken to the level of the iron panning (11). A slot has been excavated across (11) to a depth of $\approx 0.65\text{m}$ below the original ground surface. No archaeological features/artefacts located beyond the main structural wall of H39.

The majority of the internal wall rubble (5) has been removed from H39. This procedure revealed a mid brown silty clay deposit (12) and an overlying layer of 'pea-grit' (7) (see dwg. B.I.). A mottled iron pan deposit was located below both (12) + (13). A number of possible cut features were located on the surface of (13). These have been tagged and sketched on a plan of H39 N.W.

quadrant [Aug. B I].

Currently, a small trench is being excavated across possible drain (6). To undertake this work, a slot extension was added to the N.W. quadrant of H39. The stones revealed in this slot were photographed, planned and levelled. This investigation is still in its early stages. However, a possible drain cut has been revealed to dissect layer (13).

No further excavation can be undertaken within the N.W. quadrant of H39, until the slot across (6) has been completed.

The area of investigation behind wall structure (3) has been excavated fully. However it needs to be cleaned and the bank sides straightened.

E. Jones takes over 9th June 1997

From C. Greaker.

Nothing was done this morning as I was given the site visit by S.H. and then tried to understand the context that C.G. had left me. The site is very complicated and it is difficult to be certain about occupation layers, especially as there are no finds.

This afternoon a test pit was dug 10 metres approximately due south of the trench in order to determine whether context ⑧ was an ancient level surface that extended across the hill. This in fact was the case.

I cleared the slot that had been dug through context ⑥ down to natural but could find no cut that could support the theory of a linear drain/sump feature.

June 10th

Garry and I spent the day travelling
the N.W. quadrant in order to see
if there were any features cut
into the natural. We have completely
done 2/3 of it but have not found
anything.

The shot through context ⑥
shows a circular patch of natural
below where a ^(as part of the lifting of stones) ~~flat~~ stone has
been removed. The patch is
surrounded by dark grey silt
and the stone must have been
in situ for a very long time.
Was this a post platform for a
centre post?

More stones have appeared in
the natural ^{surrounded by silt} after the travelling
and conjured up images of
~~features~~ ^{features} but S.H. is quite

18/19

correctly stated that as they are below the ancient land surface they can't have been laid by human hand but have formed naturally. (unless of course they are cut features).

Two students (Fay + Day) started travelling the S. ~~W.~~ quadrant. The weather was appalling and we left the site early.

11th June

A sequence of jobs seems to be evolving, which will see the outside of the W. ~~W.~~ quadrant completely finished and ready to be backfilled. Then the inside of this quadrant will be finished and the ~~E/W~~ section drawn. E/W

Next week we shall put a slot through the wall so that the section of ~~W~~ ~~E/W~~ ~~N/E~~ can be drawn. Hopefully we shall find something meaningful back

the wall. We removed the rubble from the S.E. quadrant and the door entrance is looking quite impressive. We also started travelling this area late in the day.

13th June

Finished cleaning up the entrance and removed rubble from outside of hut in S/W quadrant.

We removed flat stones of context (6) and cleaned down to Trench. There is definitely no cult under the stones. It seems from the section that there is an overburden type deposit which is similar in character to (9) and (12). This appears intermittently across the site but

& seems to be more evident near
cluster of stones. It remains to
be seen if it goes under the hill.

We found a patch of rim and
two smaller pieces close up to
the section and in this layer.

14th June 1992

Very frustrating day. The contours
in the S.E. Quadrant seem to be more
complicated the more we crowd off.
If we are below the archaeology
there doesn't seem to be much
point in delicate travelling especially
given the work there is to be done.
Even if there are features down
the iron-pipe or below it I might do
well to start unblocking.

The TBM that was pointed out to me
is not correct and I will have

to take new levels tomorrow.

We dove and photographed the external south facing section of the N. East quadrant as well as photographing the cleaned up entrance.

We removed Stone 1. from the top of the wall using fence posts as well strong arms. We are now ready to remove the rubble from the centre of the wall and will begin this tomorrow.

15th June 1997

Continued with the crowthing of the S. W. quadrant. I cleaned up the N. ~~W~~ quadrant but no features were evident. Tomorrow I will mattock a few inches off the top in order to see if any more features come up.

We put a section line across the wall and started removing the rubble from inside the A. unit

Helen's cabin is almost finished and we should have more assistance next week

1164 June 1997

We are down to the 'dab' in the N. W. quadrant and should be finished tomorrow. We have half sectioned unit A' of the wall and down the section before excavating the unit totally. It is interesting to note that the cobble fill was liberally interspersed with soil (perhaps turves) in its construction.

I began lifting the rubble from inside the hut in the S E quadral

and have found what appears to be a partially paved surface in the interior entrance of the hut.

→ The exterior of the hut (SE side) also continued to be excavated but progress is slow.

19th June 1997

Today the weather is awful and we are not digging, so I have the opportunity to catch up with this diary.

During the past two days we have completed the excavation of unit A, travelled down to context 0 in the S.E. quadrant and found two features (possibly post holes) in the N.W. quadrant.